

EXPENDITURES FOR VISITORS CENTER AT LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Energy and Natural Resources Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 420 and that the Senate then proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 420) recommending expenditures for an appropriate visitors center at Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site to commemorate the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, without further intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 420) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 420

Whereas the United States recognizes that in September 1957, 9 young students changed the course of American history by claiming the right to receive an equal education;

Whereas Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, Jefferson Thomas, Terrence Roberts, Carlotta Walls, Minnijean Brown, Gloria Ray, Thelma Mothershed, and Melba Pattillo, known as the "Little Rock Nine", and their parents had the courage necessary to break the bonds of prejudice and desegregation and venture onto the world stage, with full knowledge of the perils and complexities inherent in their endeavor;

Whereas despite their effort to enroll at Little Rock Central High School and receive an education, the Little Rock Nine were met with severe adversity;

Whereas Little Rock Central High School became not only a crucial battleground in the struggle for civil rights, but symbolic of the United States Government's commitment to eliminating separate systems of education for African-Americans and Caucasians;

Whereas the enrollment of the Little Rock Nine was recognized by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as such a significant event in the struggle for civil rights that he attended the graduation of the first African-American from Little Rock Central High School;

Whereas the sacrificial accomplishments that were made in September 1957 have continuing benefits for the United States today;

Whereas the United States will always revere the accomplishments that 9 young high school students made by showing the Nation and the world that "all men are created equal" and the rule of law is paramount in the democracy of the United States;

Whereas the Little Rock Nine were forced to obtain the blessings of liberty that are inherent in the United States Constitution through the intervention of the judicial

branch and executive branch of the United States Government;

Whereas existing visitor facilities at Little Rock Central High School are inadequate, resulting in limited opportunities for citizens to learn about civil rights and our Nation's heritage; and

Whereas the legislative branch of the United States Government has the opportunity to appropriately commemorate the legacy that these heroic individuals left by fully funding the design and construction of an informative memorial: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the courage displayed by the Little Rock Nine should be commemorated as an example of American sacrifice through extreme adversity;

(2) Congress should fully fund the design and construction of a visitor center at Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site; and

(3) the new facilities should open by September 2007 in order to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the historic events that occurred at Little Rock Central High School.

PROTECTING OLDER AMERICANS FROM FRAUD MONTH

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 749, S. Res. 424.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 424) designating October 2004 as Protecting Older Americans From Fraud Month.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 424) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 424

Whereas perpetrators of financial crimes frequently target their fraud schemes at older Americans because older Americans possess a large percentage of the individual household wealth in the United States;

Whereas many older Americans have been divested of their hard-earned life savings by fraud and frequently pay a high emotional cost, losing not only their money, but also their self-respect and dignity;

Whereas perpetrators of fraud schemes against older Americans reach their victims through the telephone, the mail, or the Internet;

Whereas the United States Postal Inspection Service responded to nearly 80,000 fraud complaints, arrested 1,453 fraud offenders, secured nearly 1,387 fraud convictions, and initiated 102 civil or administrative actions involving fraud in fiscal year 2003;

Whereas fraud investigations by the United States Postal Inspection Service in fiscal year 2003 resulted in nearly \$1,500,000,000 in court-ordered and voluntary restitution payments;

Whereas older Americans are often the disproportionate targets of cross-border fraud, including prize promotions, sweepstakes scams, foreign money offers, advance-fee loans, and foreign lotteries, and file 20 percent of all cross-border fraud complaints;

Whereas there was an 80 percent increase in 2003 of reports of Internet fraud targeting older Americans, and the amount of money lost by older Americans to Internet fraud increased from \$2,690,618 in 2002 to \$12,818,313 in 2003, a 375 percent increase in money lost;

Whereas the Federal Trade Commission reports that 27,300,000 people in the United States have been victims of identity theft in the last 5 years, including 9,900,000 people in the last year alone, and that identity theft has cost businesses and financial institutions nearly \$48,000,000,000, in addition to the reported \$5,000,000,000 in out-of-pocket expenses incurred by consumer fraud victims;

Whereas there was a 200 percent increase in 2002 of identity theft targeting older Americans, and credit card fraud is perpetrated against older Americans at a higher rate than the general population of the United States;

Whereas the Federal Trade Commission continues to successfully implement its do-not-call registry, with 60 percent of consumers surveyed stating that they registered and 80 percent of the registered consumers surveyed reporting fewer calls, but more older Americans need to be aware that the do-not-call registry is available;

Whereas fraud schemes targeting older Americans have caused losses estimated at millions of dollars a year, and have cost some older Americans their homes;

Whereas consumer awareness is the best protection from telemarketing, mail, Internet, and identity fraud schemes, and the Federal Trade Commission and the United States Postal Inspection Service have resources available to educate and assist the public; and

Whereas it is vital to increase public awareness of the enormous impact that fraud has on older Americans and to educate the public, older Americans, their families, and their caregivers about a wide array of fraud schemes, such as telemarketing, mail, Internet, and identity fraud, and how to report suspected fraud to the appropriate authorities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2004 as "Protecting Older Americans From Fraud Month"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate activities and programs that—

(A) prevent the purveyors of telemarketing, mail, Internet, and identity fraud from victimizing the people of the United States; and

(B) educate and inform the public, older Americans, their families, and their caregivers about a number of financial crimes, such as telemarketing, mail, Internet, and identity fraud.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2004

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 713, S. 2484.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2484) to amend title 38, United States Code, to simplify and improve pay